

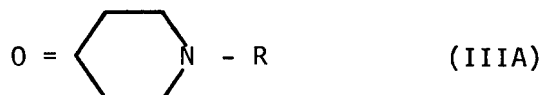
Cont.  
B2

tetrahydroderivatives and the 16, 17, 18, 19, 28, 29-hexahydro-derivatives thereof.--

Page 5, following line 6 from the bottom of the page, insert as a separate paragraph:

B3

--When formula III corresponds to the piperidine ring or the substituted piperidine ring, a suitable ketone is of the formula



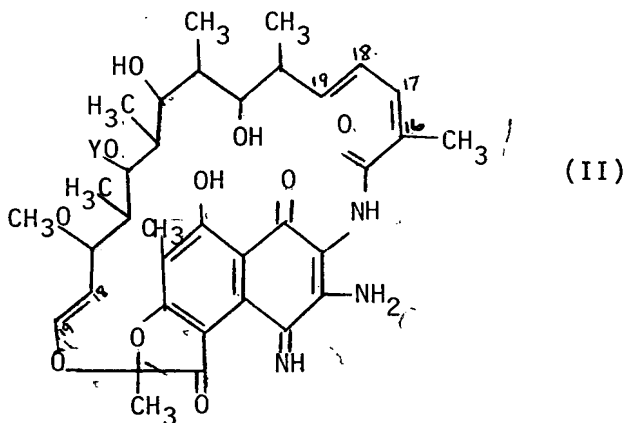
where R is hydrogen or a substituent on the piperidine ring as defined following formula (I) and formula (IA)--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 1.

B4

~~52~~ (Amended) A method of preparing a rifamycin compound of Claim [1], 3, which comprises reacting a compound having the formula

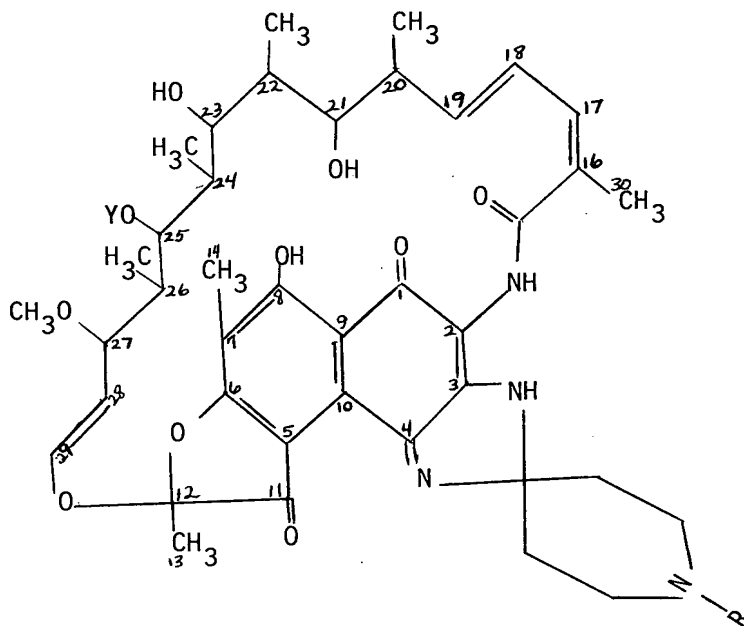


cont.  
p 4


$$O = \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{N} - \text{R}$$

Please add the following new claims:

B5



wherein R is a radical selected from the group consisting of linear alkyl having 4 to 8 carbon atoms, branched alkyl having 4 to 8 carbon atoms,

~~alkenyl having 3 or 4 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl having 3 to 6 carbon atoms,~~

~~alkoxyalkyl having 3 to 7 carbon atoms, alkyl furyl having 5 or 6 carbon~~

~~atoms, alkyltetrahydrofuryl having 5 or 6 carbon atoms, alkanoyl having 5~~

~~or 6 carbon atoms and monohaloalkanoyl having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, and~~

Y is -H or -COCH<sub>3</sub>, and the 16, 17, 18, 19 -tetrahydro derivatives and the 16, 17, 18, 19, 28, 29 -hexahydro derivatives thereof.

3. The compound of Claim 1 wherein the radical R is linear alkyl having 4 to 8 carbon atoms.

4. The compound of Claim 1 wherein the radical R is branched alkyl having 4 to 8 carbon atoms.

5. The compound of Claim 3 wherein the radical R is alkanoyl having 5 or 6 carbon atoms.

6. The compound of Claim 3 where the radical R is alkenyl having 3 or 4 carbon atoms.

7. The compound of Claim 3 where the radical R is cycloalkyl having 3 to 6 carbon atoms.

8. The compound of Claim 3 where the radical R is alkoxyalkyl having 3 to 7 carbon atoms.

9. The compound of Claim 3 where the radical R is alkyl-furyl having 5 or 6 carbon atoms or alkyl-tetrahydrofuryl of 5 or 6 carbon atoms.

10. The compound of Claim 3 where the radical R is monohalo-alkanoyl having 2 to 6 carbon atoms.--